

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yano et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6045626). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution of this application, Applicant amends claim 1 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 11 and intervening claims 9 and 10. Accordingly, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Likewise, claims 2-8 and 12, which depend from claim 1, should also be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano in view of JP 2003-17981. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, Applicant amends claim 1 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 11 and intervening claims 9 and 10. Claims 13-16 depend from claim 1. Claims 13-16 should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 11 and intervening claims 9 and 10. Claims 9-11 are cancelled. Claim 12 is amended to depend directly from claim 1.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 7, 2005

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